

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5024)  
Idaho Avenue North  
Plattsburgh  
Clinton County  
New York

HAER No. NY-326-DB

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HAER No. NY-326-DB

**Location:** Idaho Avenue North, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622520.4948080  
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

**Date of Construction:** 1959

**Architect:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** United States Air Force

**Present Use:** Vacant

**Significance:** Building No. 5024 is one of 19 four-plex homes (Buildings No. 5024, 5028, 5036, 5040, 5044, 5048, 5052, 5056, 5060, 5213, 5215, 5217, 5219, 5231, 5241, 6002, 6057, 6061, and 6112) that provided Lower Grade Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), Upper Grade NCO, and Company Grade Officer housing.

**Project Information:** Building No. 5024 at Plattsburgh AFB is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey  
Deborah Dobson-Brown  
Earth Tech, Inc.  
1461 East Cooley Drive  
Colton, CA 92324

### Summary Description of Capehart Four-Family Home (Building No. 5024)

#### **Layout**

Building No. 5024 is a 4,164 square-foot, two-story, wood-frame building with a low-pitched gable roof. Built atop a concrete block, chain-wall foundation, the building is rectangular in plan, with the ground floor level clad in brick veneer and the upper story clad in vinyl siding. On the rear, the brick façade is interrupted with a strong entrance/fenestration sequence. For each unit, there is a painted wood panel inset with an entry door and a Chicago-style window unit (double hung windows flanking a central fixed light picture window). Above this, at the second floor level, the windows reverse the Chicago theme, with narrow fixed glass panels flanking a central double hung window. At the front of the building, roughly two-thirds of the ground level brick façade is again interrupted, this time by a 1 foot 3 inch indentation. This recessed area is clad in scored, vertical wood siding, and the front entrance door and a double-hung kitchen window puncture this plane. At the upper level, however, the vinyl façade does not follow the indentation, thus creating a shallow overhang. At this level there is a single horizontal sliding bathroom window and one of the "reverse" Chicago windows. At each gabled-end of the building is a single, narrow, double hung window centered on the second floor level.

At the front of the four-plex, there are two fully detached garages, equally spaced along the facade. Each garage has two stalls and contains 515 square feet of space. These garages are one-story, wood frame construction, clad in board and batten siding. Each has a low-pitched, gable roof.

Within the overall structure, there are four identical apartments, each of which is essentially a mirror image of the unit(s) flanking it. Within each, an entrance hall leads from the front door directly into a living/dining area, oriented toward the rear of the unit. Opening off the entrance hall is a kitchen, a utility room, and a staircase leading to the second level, where the bedrooms are located.

#### **Alterations/Additions**

The second story of Building No. 5024 was clad in vinyl siding circa 1985.

#### **Function**

Building No. 5024 provided housing facilities for Lower and Upper Grade NCO, and Company Grade officers and their families.

#### **Significance**

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make the Strategic Air Command (SAC) operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the critical instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among the more identifiable of which would be multiple family housing units, such as the Capehart Four-Family Home. Building No. 5024 provided comfortable housing for a targeted

segment of the military population and their families and within close proximity to the base operational areas. Toward that end, Building No. 5024 played an important part in the Plattsburgh AFB Cold-War mission.

### Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for Crew Readiness Facility, Building No. 2895, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA  
600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

### Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace....is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

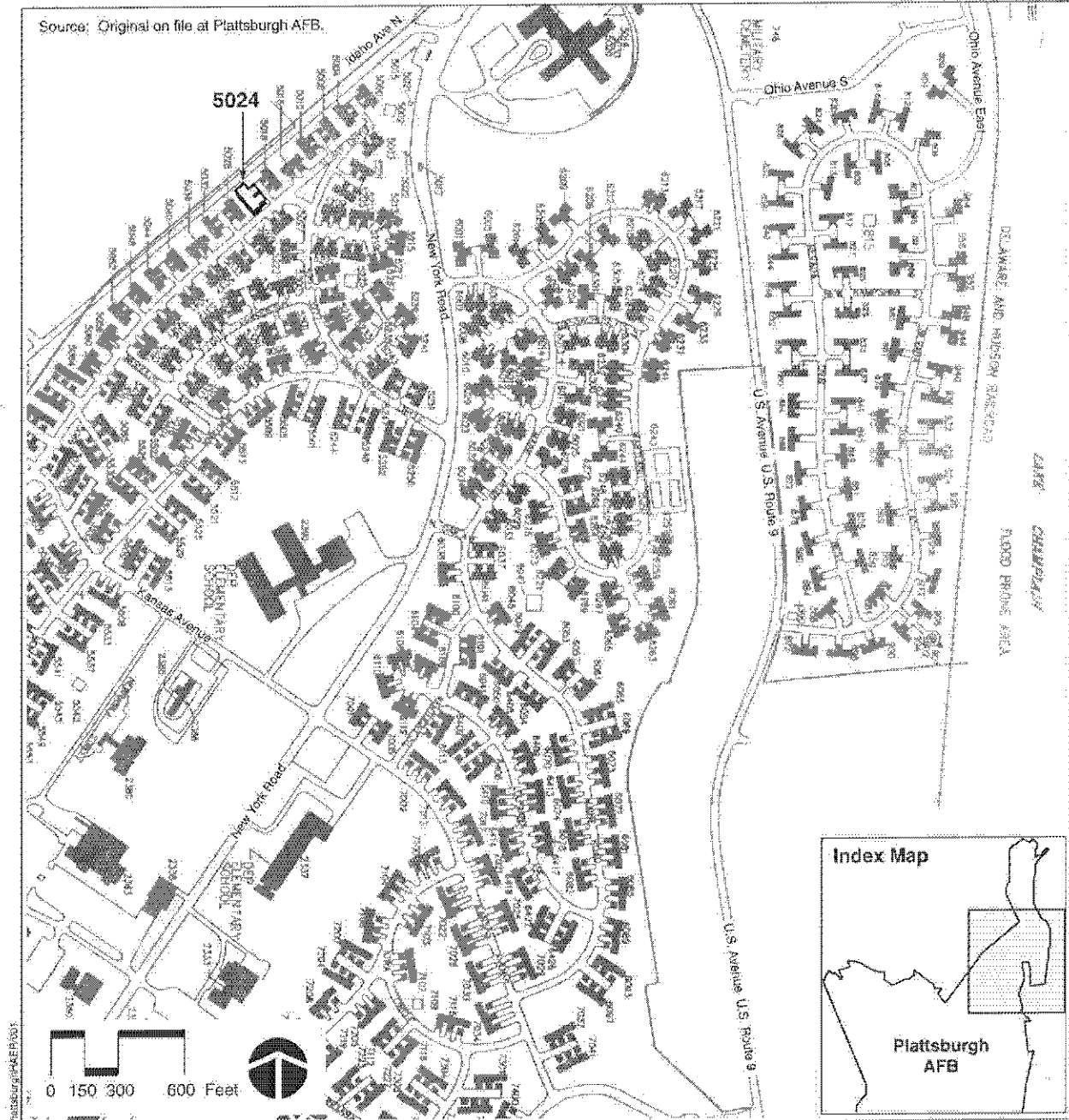
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

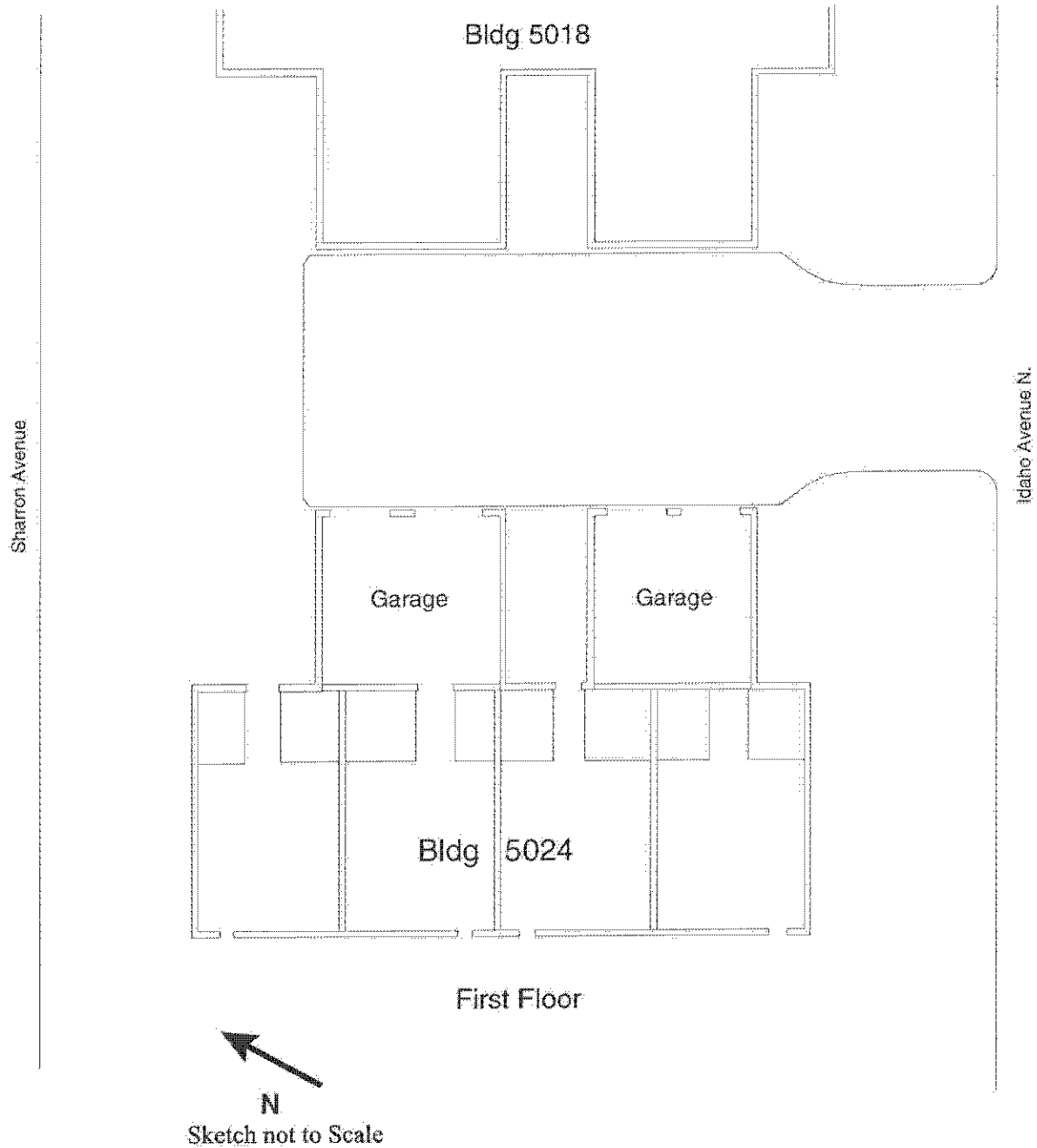
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

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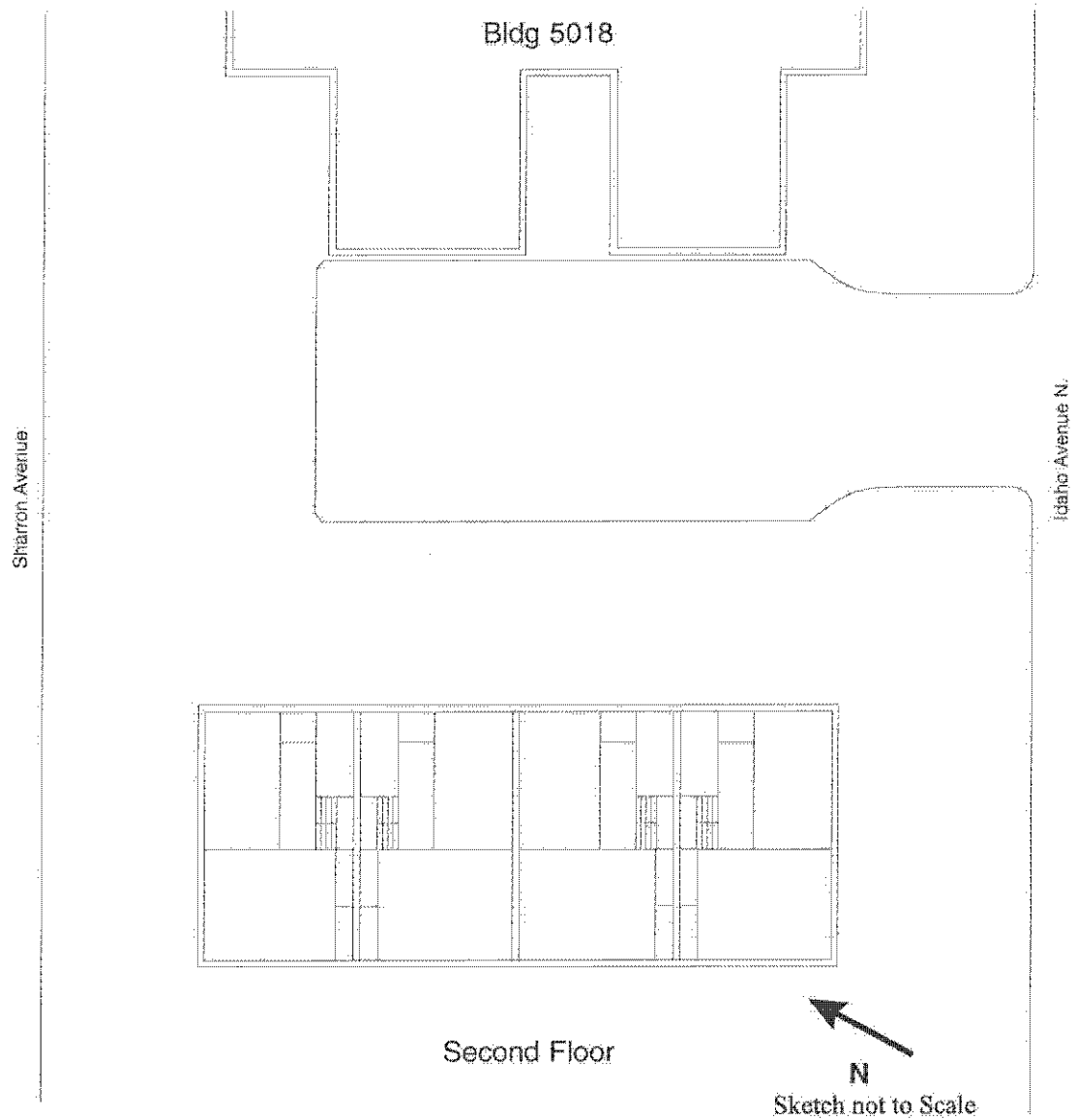
Location Map For Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5024  
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SKETCH PLAN - CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME - FIRST FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5024)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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SKETCH PLAN – CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME - SECOND FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5024)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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